



Conservation Successes – January 2004

Cultural Heritage Unites Community

Willard Settlers Park celebrates Slovenian roots



Willard, WI (Summer 2003) - The small agricultural Village of Willard, the largest Slovenian farming community in the nation, recently received a gift of three acres of land for conservation as a community park from local citizens. With the assistance of the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, residents of Willard developed a program of needs and their vision for the new Willard Settlers Park. The central focus of the park is the shelter/pavilion which is an authentically designed replica of a *Kosoloc*, a Slovenian hay-drying barn, to celebrate the community's heritage. Community participation and involvement shines here! One area resident gave the timbers and lumber from a nearby barn built by first

settlers, for the *Kosoloc* framework. A local architect and a carpenter-craftsman designed the details of the *Kosoloc* and local artisans and residents constructed the shelter. Work towards the vision continues on other elements of Willard Settlers Park. For more information, please contact Mark Weaver, Wisconsin Field Office, RTCA at mark_weaver@nps.gov or 414-297-3617.

Trout habitat improved in Montana

Better living for people, dogs, and fish

Livingston, Montana (December 2003) - The Town of Livingston just finished restoration of a key section of the main stream running through town. Fleshman Creek, once a side channel of the Yellowstone River, was in sad shape. Gravel mined, ponded, trashed, and ignored, the stream corridor had accumulated years of muck and urban pollutants from stormwater runoff and wind-blown garbage. The Town, partnering with Trout Unlimited and the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program of the National Park Service, rebuilt 1700 feet of the Creek adjacent to Mayors Landing, a popular town dog-off-leash park. Stream geometry was adjusted to provide trout spawning and rearing



National Center for Recreation and Conservation programs:

- Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) - Hydropower Assistance - Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- National Trails System (NTS) - Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers (PWSR) -
- Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) - Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) -

habitat and floodplain areas were created for native plant colonization and to provide stream access for local residents. RTCA staff provided expertise in restoration project design, contract administration, and grant acquisition. An NPS "challenge cost-share" grant, [Trout Unlimited](#), and the 1-Fly Foundation provided key funding, and others including [the Future Fisheries Program](#) and [Tom's of Maine/National Park Foundation](#) also provided funds to help complete the project. For more information, please contact Gary Weiner at gary_weiner@nps.gov or (406) 587-1667.

Historic Lighthouse Becomes New Community Park

Community obtains tallest lighthouse in Alabama



Dauphin Island, AL (September 24, 2003) – The National Park Service's Federal Lands to Parks program facilitated the transfer, at no cost, of a 0.23-acre parcel containing an abandoned Coast Guard lighthouse, to the Town of Dauphin Island.

The Sand Island Lighthouse is located in the Gulf of Mexico four miles south of the entrance to Mobile Bay. Constructed in 1872, the lighthouse is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as Alabama's tallest lighthouse (131 feet). Stabilization and restoration of the historic lighthouse will be accomplished with assistance from the Alabama Lighthouse Association. Public access to Sand Island and interpretive tours of the inside of the lighthouse are planned. NPS Federal

Lands to Parks staff negotiated the transfer. For more information, please contact Bill Huie, Federal Lands to Parks Program Manager, at bill_huie@nps.gov or 404-562-3175.

Over \$825,000 to go to VT and NH conservation projects under a FERC Settlement Agreement

Connecticut River Watershed to continue to receive benefits.

Hanover, NH (January 8, 2004) - Members of the Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund Advisory Committee met earlier this month to recommend awarding over \$825,000 in the 2003 Grant Round pursuant to the Fund set up through the relicensing of the 15 Mile Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC 2077) on the Connecticut River in New Hampshire and Vermont. The Settlement Agreement setting up the Fund was signed in September of 1997 and FERC issued a new license for the project in April of 2002. The National Park Service was a party to that agreement and Kevin Mendik, of the Northeast Region Hydropower Assistance Program, sits on the Fund Advisory Committee. (The USFWS was also a party and has a representative on the Committee.) The 2002 Grant Round awarded over \$490,000. The amount available to be awarded is based on a percentage of profits from hydro generation, so a high water year like 2003 will translate into more money available for the 2004 Grant Round. Among the projects funded in 2003 were a dam removal on the East Branch of the White River in Vermont, the purchase of a 79 acre riverfront parcel by a Vermont municipality for recreation facilities, acquisition of fee lands and conservation easements in VT and NH, a high school

National Center for Recreation and Conservation programs:

- Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) - Hydropower Assistance - Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- National Trails System (NTS) - Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers (PWSR) -
- Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) - Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) -

project to continue and expand a vernal pools inventory, a middle school project to identify structures within a local watershed that prevent movement of salmonids, and implementation of a river restoration project. In total, 22 projects were funded including projects continued from the previous year. For more information, please contact Kevin Mendik, at kevin_mendik@nps.gov or (617) 223-5299.

Lakeside Conservancy celebrates land acquisition on San Diego River 80 acres purchased for river restoration and park

The San Diego River Park, CA (December 23, 2003) - Lakeside Conservancy completed the purchase of 80 acres of land along the San Diego River. The seller was Vulcan Materials Company, an aggregate supply company. The Conservancy's goal is to establish a 400-acre river park in the community of Lakeside and restore natural function to approximately two miles of the river, on the urban fringe of metropolitan San Diego, using former sand and gravel mining sites. With another 22 acres pledged by Hanson Aggregates, Lakeside Conservancy is one-quarter of the way toward fulfilling its land acquisition goals. In addition to donations made by a membership base of 2,000 local residents and business owners, the Lakeside Conservancy's purchase was supported by grants from California's Resources Agency River Parkways Program, Wildlife Conservation Board, Coastal Conservancy and Department of Water Resources Flood Protection Corridor Program. In 2001 and 2002, the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program developed a land acquisition manual for use by the Conservancy's directors and staff, which included detailed property profiles, a summary of local regulatory issues, and projected land costs. San Diego County staff cooperated in this effort. For more information, contact Jim Donovan, RTCA Program Community Planner at (323) 441-2117 or visit the Lakeside Conservancy's web site: www.lakesideriverpark.org



Lakeside Conservancy board members, staff and supporters toast their new status as landowners, January 12, 2004.

National Center for Recreation and Conservation programs:

- Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) - Hydropower Assistance - Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
 - National Trails System (NTS) - Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers (PWSR) -
- Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) - Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) -